Statement-II

Details of Applications received Till Date for Opening of New Branch Post Offices in Punjab

Sl. No.	Name of place	District
1	Chehalwali	Bathinda
2	Sainikhurd	Faridkot
3	Kala Bhaiyan	Jalandhar
4	Dago	Ludhiana
5	Chuharwali	Jalandhar
6	Khadauli	Patiala
7	Kaharpur	Hoshiarpur

VSNL Services

1189. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited to provide National Long Distance (NLD) free of cost;

(b) if so, whether the VSNL would get licence of NLD free of cost;

(c) whether any decision for inviting final bids for VSNL disinvestment has been taken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, grant of licence for National Long Distance services to VSNL is a part of compensation package on account of preponing of demonopolisation of VSNL over International Long Distance (ILD) from 1/4/2004 to 1/4/2002. Under this package, VSNL is liable to pay the licence fee, both by way of entry fee and revenue share for operating national long

distances services and would be on the same footing like other private sector operators but the Government would pay VSNL a sum equivalent to entry fee and annual revenue shares as licence fee, net of taxes for a period of 5 years with effect from April, 2001.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The highest bid for Rs. 1439.25 crores for 25% equity of VSNL tendered by Panatone Finvest Ltd. a Tata Group Company has been accepted, Shareholders Agreement & Share Purchase Agreement have been signed and management control of VSNL has been transferred *w.e.f.* 13/2/2002.

Reduction in STD Tariff

1190. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the cut in STD tariffs by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., (BSNL) from 14th January, 2002, other private and public sector players in the field have followed suit;

(b) if so, the details of the tariff reduction affected by other public and private sector operators; and

(c) how this tariff reduction has affected the over-all revenue-receipts of BSNL and other operators during the months following the reduction and the viability of the tariff structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, consequent upon reduction of long distance tariffs by BSNL the only other National Long Distance Operator (NLDO) Bharti Telesonic Ltd. (BTSOL) which has recently launched its services under the brand name "India One", has followed suit. The pulse rates for inter circle national long distance offered by BSNL and BTSOL are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Initial estimates based on sample study conducted on some of the trunk automatic exchanges for some telecom circles in BSNL